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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Bruce Makinen

Serial No.: 09/997,859

Filed: November 29, 2001

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR  
MANIPULATING A GRAPHICAL  
DISPLAY OF A PRINTED  
CIRCUIT BOARD MODEL  
FOR AN AUTOMATED X-RAY  
INSPECTION SYSTEM**

Group Art Unit: 2672

Examiner: Javid A. Amini

Docket No.: 10011248-1

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

12/28/05.

Stephanie Riley

Stephanie Riley

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF  
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance includes some statements that may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicant provides the following comments.

First, Applicant asserts that there are multiple grounds supporting allowance of the presently pending claims, including grounds in addition to those stated in the Statement of

Reasons for Allowance. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that Applicant agrees with the accuracy of the characterizations of the cited references and the claim elements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

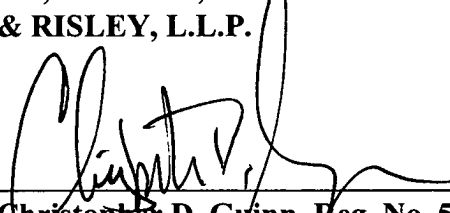
Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: "Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim." Thus, any dependent claims that are not addressed by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in terms of validity, with their respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER  
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Stephanie Riley  
Stephanie Riley

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the time Examiner Amini spent with Applicant's attorney during a telephone discussion on December 20, 2005 to resolve an issue with the citation of the "Primrose" reference cited in the Office Action mailed August 23, 2005 ("Primrose").

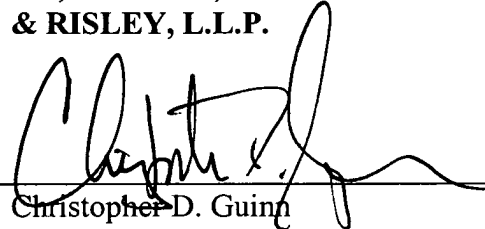
Specifically, the citation for *Primrose* does not appear in an Information Disclosure Statement provided by Applicant, nor is the reference cited in an Examiner's form PTO-892 (Notice of References Cited). Accordingly, Applicant's representative requested that *Primrose* be formally cited in a form PTO-892 and initialed by the Examiner such that the record shows the precise *Primrose* reference relied upon in the Office Action mailed August 23, 2005. So far as understood, the *Primrose* reference intended to be cited in the Office Action corresponds to U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082898 to Primrose (U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/016288).

Applicant appreciates Examiner Amini's follow-up communication with Applicant's representative on December 22, 2005, indicating that *Primrose* would be formally cited before issuance of the allowed patent.

Respectfully submitted,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER  
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Christopher D. Guinn  
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